

Easterling, Deborah

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 12:16 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Spartanburg County Council passes resolution against Duke project | GoUpstate.com

Dear Mr. Then,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email dated August 18, 2015 to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your email will become a part of ND-2015-20-E - Duke Energy Carolinas: Foothills Transmission and Substation Project- 45-Mile Transmission Line Between Asheville, NC, Power Plant and New Substation Near Campobello, SC, and will be posted on our website under this docket.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Administrative Coordinator

From: Boyd, Jocelyn
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 12:15 PM
To: Duke, Daphne; Easterling, Deborah; DeSanty, Tricia
Subject: FW: Spartanburg County Council passes resolution against Duke project | GoUpstate.com

From: Robert Then [mailto:robert.then@spartanburgcountysc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 7:21 AM
To: Boyd, Jocelyn
Subject: Spartanburg County Council passes resolution against Duke project | GoUpstate.com

Please follow the lead of our elected officials and citizens in denying this project or at the very least no new ROW's Thank You, Robert Then

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20150817/ARTICLES/150819774/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Spartanburg-County-Council-passes-resolution-against-Duke-project>

Spartanburg County Council passes resolution against Duke project

Duke Energy's proposed transmission line project isn't welcome in Spartanburg County.

The Spartanburg County Council passed a resolution Monday requesting Duke to choose rights-of-way for the line that are not located in the county. Council Chairman Jeff Horton

said he had been in contact with Duke officials and understood the community's concerns regarding the project.

Duke plans to spend \$320 million to construct a 45-mile, 230-kilovolt transmission line from Asheville, N.C., to a substation that would be built off I-26 near Campobello.

The resolution requests Duke Energy carefully inventory and consider the potential impact of the project on all dedicated conservation easements and other easements, family cemetery locations, and environmental or land preservation concerns.

"Spartanburg County Council strongly encourages Duke Energy to make every effort to determine the route that affects the fewest people, utilizes existing rights-of-way wherever possible to include choosing rights-of-way that are not located in Spartanburg County, and that protects the county's rich environmental and cultural resources," the resolution states.

Councilman David Britt said he empathized with property owners potentially affected by the line. Britt said while the council has no say in Duke's line selection process, he believed it was still important to send a message to Duke regarding local concerns. Britt said the resolution clearly stated that the council is requesting Duke not to locate the line in Spartanburg County.

"I thought that was a very strong resolution that the chairman presented, best we could do," Britt said.

After the resolution was passed, there was mixed reaction. Russ Rock of Campobello asked why the council's resolution didn't oppose a proposed substation in Campobello. Rock said he believed the resolution seemed weak since it excluded any mention of the substation. If the substation is built in Campobello, Rock asked how can you not have a line in South Carolina. "I think it would be much stronger if there was a stronger stance against the substation," he said.

Britt said that Duke may decide to put the substation elsewhere since the council opposes the transmission lines.

Michael Hayes of Campobello said he supported the council's resolution. Hayes said he owns a 40 acre farm about one-mile from the proposed site of the substation.

"I am very happy about it passing and surprised," Hayes said. "I didn't know they were going to come up with it."

Duke spokesman Ryan Mosier released a statement after the resolution was passed by the council

“We appreciate the concerns raised by residents and elected officials in Spartanburg County and others who have participated in our public input process and look forward to continuing to hear comments about the line segments we are considering through the end of August as our input process continues,” Mosier said.

Mosier said “the need for this project is real, but so too, are the emotions property owners have expressed in response to these plans. We are doing our very best to pick the best possible location for the power line with the least impact on the environment and communities we serve.”

The substation and transmission lines are part of a larger project to convert the coal-burning Asheville plant to natural gas. The construction could begin in November 2017 and be completed by August 2019, according to Duke officials. Duke is accepting public comments on the project through Aug. 31.

Duke announced Friday that its recommended route for the line between Campobello and Asheville will be announced in early October. The proposed routes are available for viewing at <http://dukeenergyfoothillsproject.power-viz.com>.

Councilman Bob Walker recused himself from voting on the resolution since he owns property near one of the proposed line routes. Walker who represents District 5 said he shared the concerns of those property owners living in his district who could be affected by the project.

“I encourage you as citizens to continue to give your input to Duke Energy and the Public Service Commission,” Walker said.

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina is scheduled to hold a public hearing regarding Duke’s proposed foothills transmission and substation project at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27 at Landrum High School’s auditorium at 18818 Asheville Highway, Campobello. Walker said the commission is involved in making a final decision on the project’s permitting process.

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